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Caerphilly Castle

GLAMORGAN

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HISTORY

CAERPHILLY is situated among the hills that lie to the north of the coastal plain of Glamorgan. This area continued to be ruled by the Welsh long after the low lying lands to the south had fallen to the Normans and become the Lordship of Glamorgan, with its centre at Cardiff Castle. The district remained in Welsh hands until 1266, when Earl Gilbert de Clare, Lord of Glamorgan ejected Gruffydd ap Rhys, the native Welsh ruler. Earl Gilbert was concerned to protect the lands to the south from invasion by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, Prince of Wales, who had succeeded in uniting most of the Welsh princes under his overlordship and by that time ruled most of Wales, his domain extending as far south as the northern borders of Glamorgan. In these circumstances the presence on his northern flank of a native ruler sympathetic to Llywelyn's cause was a source of danger to the Earl, and occupation a necessary preliminary to further defensive measures.

In 1268, six months after Llywelyn's claims to the neighbouring lordships of Builth and Brecon had been confirmed and, as Prince of Wales, he had become acknowledged overlord of all Welsh chieftains, Earl Gilbert began his first castle at Caerphilly. His purpose was to assert his hold over the area and cover the main route south to Cardiff. Soon after this castle, whose site is uncertain, had been begun, Llywelyn invaded the district and destroyed the unfinished building.

In 1271 Earl Gilbert began the existing castle, which was soon attacked and besieged by Llywelyn while under construction. Henry III intervened to try to bring about a reconciliation and a truce was called, during which building was to be suspended and the castle placed in neutral hands. But before a settlement could be reached Earl Gilbert forcibly regained possession. Soon after this,

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Capel Garmon Chambered Long Cairn

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DENBIGHSHIRE

BY PROFESSOR W. F. GRIMES, C.B.E., F.S.A.,
Director of the Institute of Archaeology

INTRODUCTION

THIS MONUMENT is an example of the chambered tombs called *cromlechau*, which form probably the most distinctive and impressive single group of prehistoric antiquities in Wales. Its immediately obvious features are: (*a*) the chamber of three compartments, entered from the south by a passage to the middle compartment, set on the long axis of (*b*) an oval mound orientated east to west, within which a wall, wedge-shaped in outline, has a deep recess in its wider east end, the recess being closed internally by upright stones. For all its past vicissitudes the tomb retains, in such condition that their complete character can be determined, not merely its unusually elaborate chamber (as the vault in which the dead were placed) but also a considerable part of the mound that once completely covered it. And the mound was so well preserved internally that excavation, though not complete, has been able to reveal certain of its more important structural features.

THE RECENT HISTORY OF THE MONUMENT

To understand the present condition of the site it is necessary to consider its history in recent times. The disturbance of the mound which led to the exposure of the chamber happened remotely in the past. Already by the end of the 17th century much damage had been done; for the Welsh topographer and antiquary, Edward Lhuyd, writing at this time, says that two of the three 'cromlechs'—and by 'cromlech' he here means (as so often) the capstones of the chamber —'have recently been broken up.'

Lhuyd's 'three cromlechs' no doubt reflected the three divisions of the chamber which are clearly visible today. But in 1852, when Archdeacon John Evans, the historian of Pentrevoelas, described the monument, only the western compartment was recognisable:

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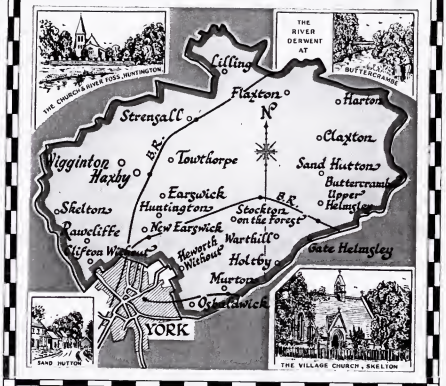

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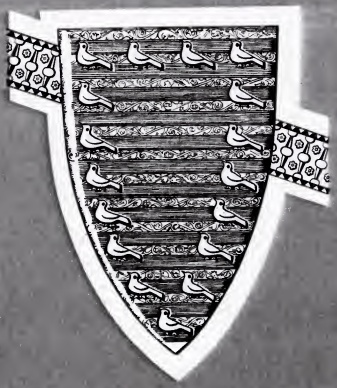

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Lullingstone Roman Villa

KENT

by

LT. COL. G. W. MEATES, F.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

THE Villa at Lullingstone was first noted some two hundred years ago, when the mosaic floor was encountered on excavating holes for the deer fence. No investigation took place at that time, and the site was forgotten until scientific excavation was begun in 1949. The Villa was therefore found to be virtually untouched since its destruction by fire about A.D. 400, although in medieval times some damage to the walls had been caused by digging for building materials.

The Villa lies overlooking the west bank of the River Darent, and its original ground level was covered by a steep slope of hill-wash that had crept down during the centuries from the higher ground. It occupied a commanding position upon a natural terrace, the low ground towards the river representing the level of the Roman garden. At each end of the Villa the natural slope of Roman times was cut into to receive, at the north the deep Basement Room, and at the south the Bathing Establishment. The centre part of the Villa stood high above the garden. The creep downwards of the hill-wash has had the effect of preserving many of the walls to heights upwards of eight feet, a rare feature in Britain where usually little more than the foundations of Roman Villas remain.

In appearance the Villa was probably not unlike an extensive bungalow. It consisted of a somewhat rambling wooden framework standing upon low walls of flint and mortar. The interstices between the wooden beams were filled with daub smoothed to a plain finish, and this in turn received in many places a coating of plaster painted in highly-coloured designs, at least on interior surfaces; there is little evidence that the exterior was painted. The roof consisted of the usual

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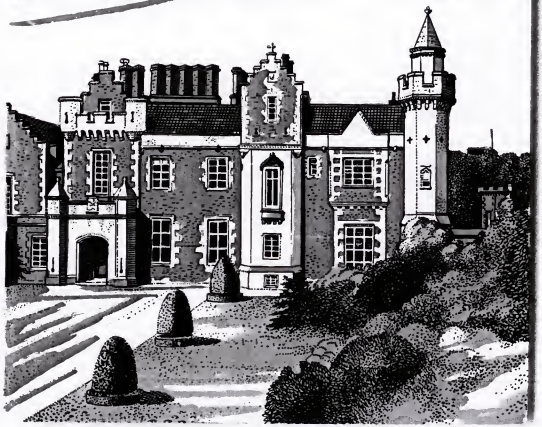

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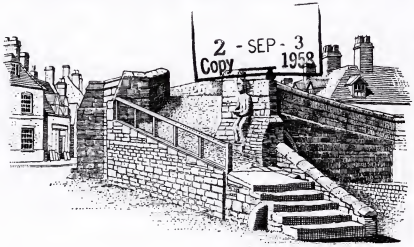

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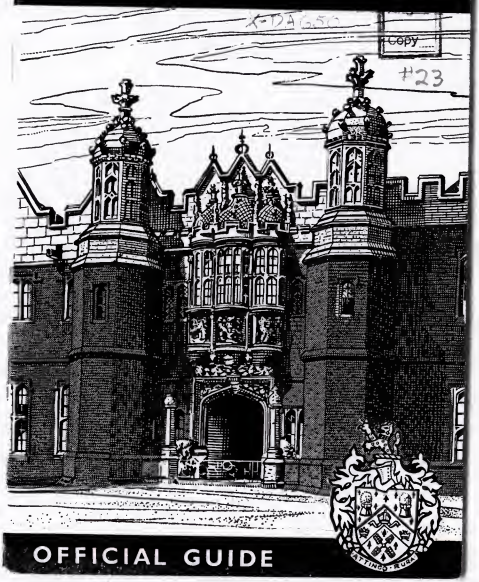

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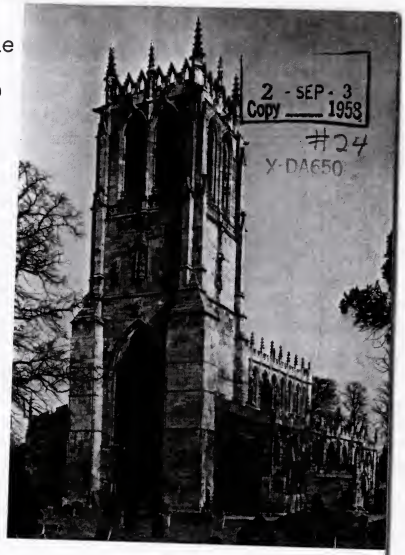

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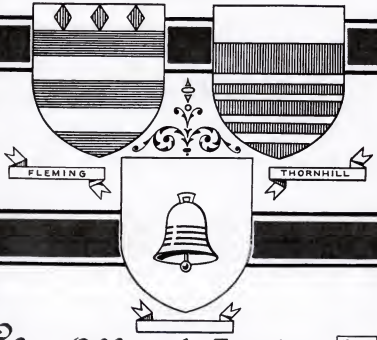

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The Old Bridge, now no longer in existence, but reputed to be the original Whaley "Bridge." The Seal of the Council is taken from this photograph.

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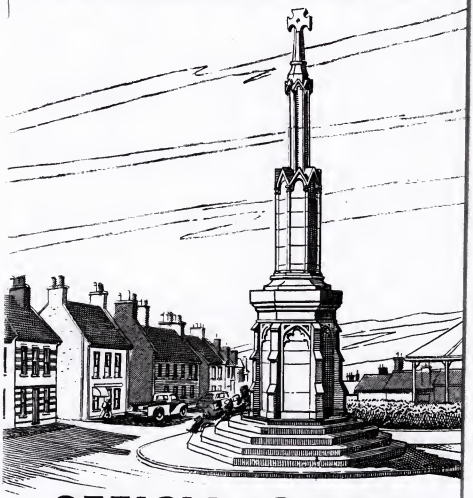

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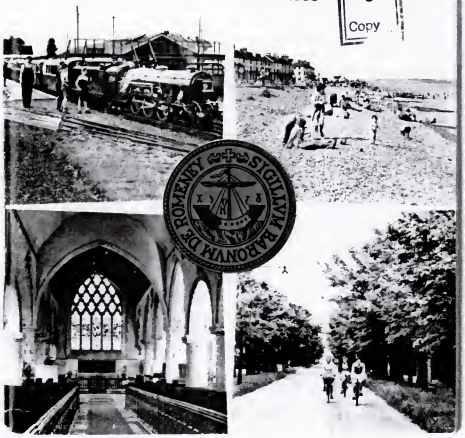

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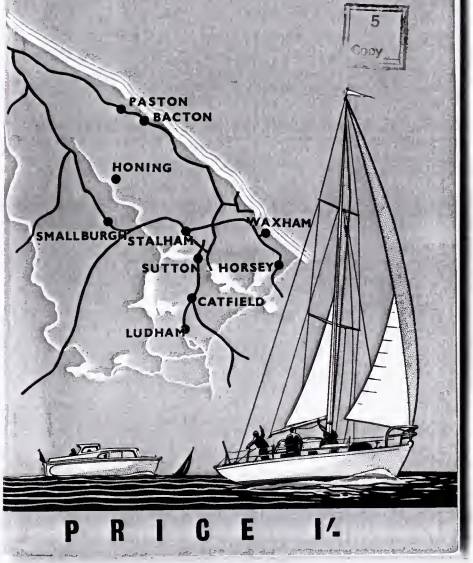

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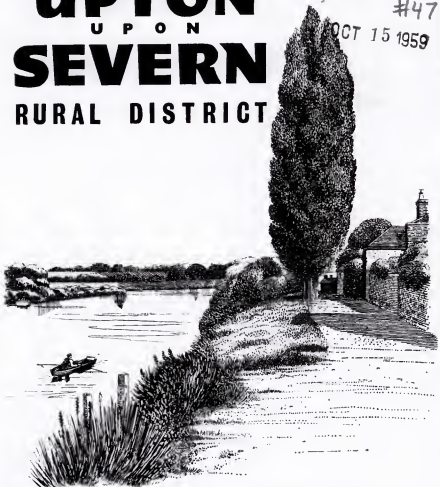

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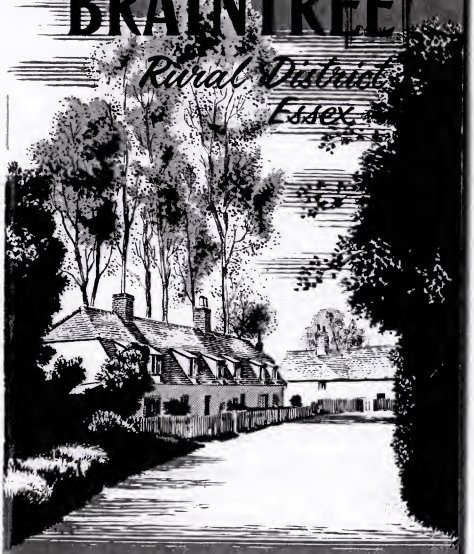

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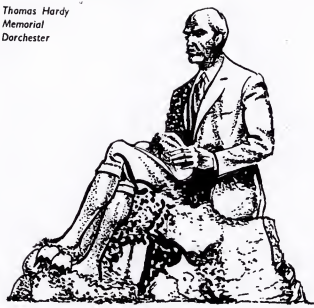

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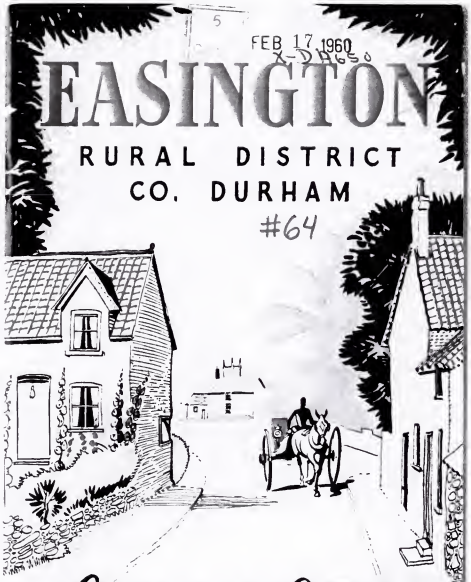

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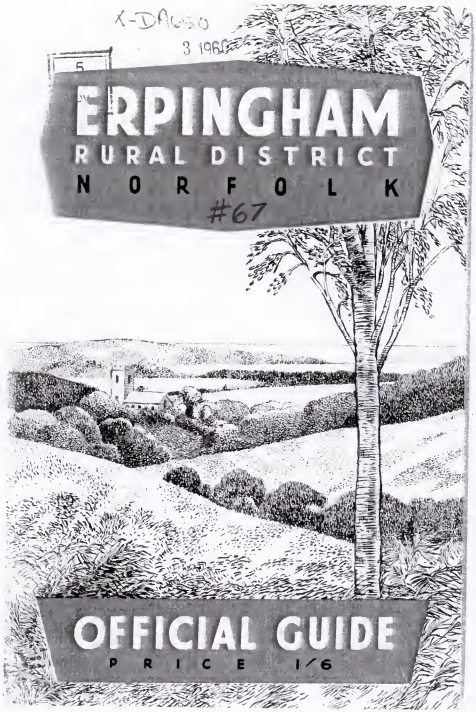

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